

First Named: Brian Flannery
Title: Grill Mounting Apparatus For A Vehicle
Serial No: 10/715612
Docket No: Flannery-001
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AMENDMENT IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (canceled):

Claim 20 (new):

A grill support apparatus for mounting a grill to a bumper of vehicle which permits the grill to be positioned in a stowed position where the grill is directly behind the vehicle and a deployed position where the grill can be positioned between the stowed position and a position approximate a side the vehicle, the grill support apparatus comprising:

- a pivot assembly comprising:

- a pivot collar; and

- a first clamp means for securing said pivot collar to a bumper of a vehicle in a vertical orientation;

- a support arm having first and second ends, and a horizontal portion intermediate to and extending between said first and second ends, said first end extending vertically downward from said horizontal portion and said second end extending vertically upward from said horizontal portion, said horizontal portion including an offset bend made at a location that is intermediate said first and second ends and being made such that the entire horizontal portion remains in the same plane and such that said first and second ends are offset from each other;

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said first end of said support arm is inserted into said pivot collar and rotatable therewith such that said pivot collar supports said support arm in a cantilever fashion and said support arm is permitted to rotate about said first end;

a grill support platform having a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface including at least two grill mounting flanges, said bottom surface including a centrally located and downwardly extending attachment collar;

said second end of said support arm is inserted into said attachment collar and rotatable therewith such that said grill support platform is rotatable about said second end; and

a retainer assembly comprising:

a retainer means to removably receive said horizontal portion of said support arm and retain said horizontal portion of said support arm such that said support arm can not be rotated about said first end thereof; and

a second clamp means for attaching said retainer means to the vehicle bumper at a spaced distance along the bumper from said first clamp means.

Claim 21 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 20, wherein said first end of said support arm includes a bearing surface in bearing contact with an upper edge of said pivot collar.

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Claim 22 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

a thumb screw threadably received by a hole formed through said pivot collar that when tightened prevents said first end of said support arm from rotating in said pivot collar.

Claim 23 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:

Claim 23 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

a thumb screw threadably received by a hole formed through said attachment collar that when tightened prevents said attachment collar from rotating about said second end of said support arm.

Claim 24 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 20, wherein said grill support platform is at least 1.5 times the length as a grill to be attached to said at least two mounting flanges and wherein

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said mounting flanges are positioned such that grill is attached to said top surface of said grill support platform towards one side thereof, thereby leaving a portion of said top surface uncovered for use as a working surface.

Claim 25 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 20, wherein said receiver member is generally U-shaped and includes a pair of legs having longitudinally aligned holes formed therethrough, and said support arm having a through hole formed therethrough that is in cooperative alignment with said longitudinally aligned holes when said support arm is received between said pair of legs.

Claim 26 (new):

A grill support apparatus for mounting a grill to a bumper of vehicle which permits the grill to be positioned in a stowed position where the grill is directly behind the vehicle and a deployed position where the grill can be positioned between the stowed position and a position approximate a side the vehicle, the grill support apparatus comprising:

- a pivot assembly comprising:

- a pivot collar; and

- a first clamp means for securing said pivot collar to a bumper of a vehicle in a vertical orientation;

a support arm having first and second ends, and a horizontal portion intermediate to and extending between said first and second ends, said first end extending vertically downward from said horizontal portion and said second end extending vertically upward from said horizontal portion, said horizontal portion including an offset bend made at a location that is intermediate said first and second ends and being made such that the entire horizontal portion remains in the same plane and such that said first and second ends are offset from each other;

said first end of said support arm is inserted into said pivot collar and rotatable therewith such that said pivot collar supports said support arm in a cantilever fashion and said support arm is permitted to rotate about said first end;

a grill support platform having a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface including at least two grill mounting flanges, said bottom surface including a centrally located and downwardly extending attachment collar;

said second end of said support arm is inserted into said attachment collar and rotatable therewith such that said grill support platform is rotatable about said second end; and

a retainer assembly comprising:

a retainer means to removably receive said horizontal portion of said support arm and retain said horizontal portion of said support arm such that said support arm can not be rotated about said first end thereof; and

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a second clamp means for attaching said retainer means to the vehicle bumper at a spaced distance along the bumper from said first clamp means;

said first end of said support arm includes a bearing surface in bearing contact with an upper edge of said pivot collar;

a first thumb screw threadably received by a hole formed through said pivot collar that when tightened prevents said first end of said support arm from rotating in said pivot collar; and

a thumb screw threadably received by a hole formed through said attachment collar that when tightened prevents said attachment collar from rotating about said second end of said support arm.

Claim 27 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 26, wherein said grill support platform is at least 1.5 times the length as a grill to be attached to said at least two mounting flanges and wherein said mounting flanges are positioned such that grill is attached to said top surface of said grill support platform towards one side thereof, thereby leaving a portion of said top surface uncovered for use as a working surface.

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Claim 28 (new):

The grill support apparatus of claim 27, wherein said receiver member is generally U-shaped and includes a pair of legs having longitudinally aligned holes formed therethrough, and said support arm having a through hole formed therethrough that is in cooperative alignment with said longitudinally aligned holes when said support arm is received between said pair of legs.